

running up a huge national debt. Quite simply, reducing the federal government's \$5.6 trillion national debt takes money that is currently tied up in debt and puts it back into the private sector where it can be invested in plants, equipment and other investments that create jobs and economic output.

Federal Reserve Board Chairman, Alan Greenspan, has repeatedly advised Congress that the most important action we could take to maintain a strong and growing economy is to pay down the national debt. Earlier this year, Chairman Greenspan testified before the Ways and Means Committee that debt reduction is a much better use of surpluses than are tax cuts, stating:

The advantages that I perceive that would accrue to this economy from a significant decline in the outstanding debt to the public and its virtuous cycle on the total budget process is a value which I think far exceeds anything else we could do with the money.

We should follow Chairman Greenspan's advice by making debt reduction the highest priority for any budget surplus.

There has been a lot of discussion here in Washington about a "grand bargain" on the budget that would divide the surplus between tax cuts and higher spending. Our constituents are giving a very different message. I would encourage my colleagues to ignore this inside the beltway speculation, and listen to the American public. Our constituents are telling us to meet our obligations by paying down the national debt.

The folks I represent understand that the conservative thing to do when you have some extra resources is to pay your debts first. They don't understand how we can be talking about grand plans to divide up the budget surplus when we have a \$5.6 trillion national debt. They want us to use this opportunity to pay down our debt.

We hear a lot of talk about "giving the American people their money back". I would remind my colleagues that it is the American people who owe the \$5.6 trillion national debt we have run up. If we are truly interested in giving the surpluses back to the American people, we should start by paying off the debt we have run up on their credit card.

I would suggest that the best tax cut we could provide for all Americans, and the best thing that we can do to ensure that taxes remain low for our children and grandchildren, is to start paying down our \$5.6 trillion national debt. Reducing our national debt will provide a tax cut for millions of Americans by restraining interest rates. Lower interest rates will put money in the pockets of working men and women by saving them money on variable mortgages, new mortgages, auto loans, credit card payments, and other debts. The reduction in interest rates we have had as a result of the fiscal discipline over the last few years has put at least \$35 billion into the hands of homeowners through lower mortgage payments. Continuing this fiscal discipline and paying down the debt is the best way to keep putting money into the hands of middle class Americans.

Just as importantly, reducing the national debt will protect future generations from increasing tax burdens to pay for the debts that we have incurred. Today, more than twenty five percent of all individual income taxes go to paying interest on our national debt. The amount of income taxes the government will have to collect just to pay the interest on the debt will continue to increase unless we take action now to pay down the national debt.

Every dollar of lower debt saves more than one dollar for future generations. These savings that can be used for tax cuts, covering the costs of the baby boomers retirement without tax increases or meeting other needs. We should give future generations the flexibility to deal with the challenges they will face, instead of forcing them to pay higher taxes just to pay for the debt we incurred with our consumption today.

I urge my colleagues to vote against reckless spending by voting against the Republican tax cuts—but let's not stop there. Join me in supporting the Blue Dog Debt Reduction Lockbox bill and let's eliminate our debt.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL UNITY DAY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the designation of a "National Unity Day" to celebrate our country's diversity as well as promote the need for harmony within our nation.

Presently, my good friend Paul Callens and several of his colleagues are participating in the Unity Walk, a 3,200-mile trek across the United States. This Unity Walk is a means for sending the message to all Americans that we must create racial harmony within our communities at both the local and national levels. The walkers also hope to interest community leaders and local government officials in celebrating a National Unity Day.

Their voyage is scheduled to end in San Francisco on October 10, 1999. The participants hope to engage fellow Americans in worthwhile discussion about the issue of racial harmony. Their ultimate goal, however, is the designation of a National Unity Day commemorating the importance of indivisibility among our diverse group of citizens here in the United States. This would also include an annual National Unity Day celebration to recognize National Unity Day on the second Sunday of October every year.

In our land of great freedom, we must not tolerate racism or prejudice of any kind. We must work together for peace and unity among the citizens of the United States to whom liberty and justice are natural human rights. The Unity Walkers have asked communities to examine their attitudes toward racial differences and make strides toward ending those racial divisions that threaten the soul of our nation.

I ask my colleagues to join with me today in support of the establishment of National Unity Day, as we work to celebrate the differences among us.

CONGRATULATING LION RAISINS GRAND OPENING

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lion Raisins on the Grand

Opening of California's newest raisin processing facility. After four generations, Lion Raisins still strives to deliver quality and service beyond their customer's expectations.

In 1903, Alex Lion established one of the first raisin packing facilities in Fresno, California, named Lion Raisins. He packed raisins for the first time, probably Muscats since that was the principal variety at that time. He shipped them by train to Chicago. The price of raisins dropped while they were in route, causing the buyers to reject them. Alex went by train to Chicago and spent several weeks there selling raisins on the streets. His packing career was somewhat sporadic after that, according to his grandson, Al Lion. The first actual packing was done on the farm that the family owned at Kings and Highland. Later they had a packing house on "H" Street, and then in 1923 or 1926 the packinghouse was built at the present site at California Avenue and Second Street.

During this time Alfred Lion, Alex's son, was living in San Francisco and was involved in the selling there. His father called him back to take an active part in the packing operation. He took over the management after his father's death in 1963.

Brother's Herb and Al entered the family business; Herb in 1947 and Al in 1957. For years, until Herb's retirement in 1991, the brothers shared responsibilities, with one managing the business end of the operation, and the other the packing. They alternated responsibilities every year. In recent years, Al's sons, Larry and John, were active in the business for a time. Larry worked from 1970 to 1981. John worked in the plant from 1974-1975. Herb Lion died in July 1995.

Four generations later, Lion Raisins is the largest family owned and operated raisin processing facility in California. For nearly 100 years, the Lion family has been committed to the raisin industry and a vital part of the San Joaquin Valley. Today Lion Raisins processes nearly 50,000 tons of California raisins annually, and distributes them around the world under the Lion brand label. This has led them to be the largest independent raisin packing company in the area in terms of tonnage packed and sold.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise to congratulate Lion Raisins in the grand opening of California's newest raisin processing facility. Lion Raisins has been a model business, after four generations of delivering quality and service beyond customer expectations; through commitment, pride, and integrity. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Lion Raisins many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO ALLEN A. PICKENS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend and congratulate Mr. Allen A. Pickens on his very distinguished career and well-earned retirement. Through the years, Al has made great contributions toward the development and economic stability of the island

of Guam. He played a significant role in the transformation of Guam from an economy dependent on Federal and local government to its present state as a self-sufficient economic center of the Western Pacific.

As a teenager growing up in Des Moines, Iowa, Al dreamt of being an accountant. In pursuit of this objective, he attended the Central College in Iowa for a year on a basketball scholarship. Forced to drop-out due to an illness, he later enlisted in the United States Air Force. After four years of involvement with Air Force security operations in West Pakistan and Okinawa, Al was able to return to school. He spent the next 3 years finishing his studies at Drake University.

Upon graduation, Al was offered a job in Hawaii with the accounting firm Peat Marwick. It was in Hawaii that he met and married his wife Dianne, who was an office manager and accountant for the state's Catholic Social Services.

Al first came to Guam in 1962, during the island's introduction to international commerce which was made possible by President Kennedy's withdrawal of the island's security clearance requirements. After several years of working and traveling between Guam and Hawaii, Al was assigned to manage the Peat Marwick Guam office in 1969. Less than six years later, he became the youngest partner in the firm. As resident manager and, later, partner, Al guided KPMG Peat Marwick toward great success as a premier accounting firm on Guam. Since the 1994 merger of KPMG Peat Marwick with Deloitte & Touche LLP, Al served as managing partner. As one of the first accountants on the island, he was considered mentor to hundreds of young accountants who have gone through his firm. A large number of his former apprentices now run Guam's top companies.

In time, Al also gained a solid reputation as a business consultant. Local businessmen have come to rely upon his professional advice. Several island businesses would never make a major move without first consulting him. They have come to realize that the value of his advice is worth far beyond any fee that he may charge.

A confessed workaholic, Al usually works 7 days a week taking time off only on Christmas, Thanksgiving and an annual 2-week vacation. Not one to miss a day of work, Al claims never to have had a sick day. He is usually at his desk by seven in the morning.

Although he usually works eleven-hour days, Al is usually home at around six in the evening for his daily run. Begun in 1976 to cure chronic headaches and chest pains, Al's preoccupation with this activity led to the formation of the Guam Running Club. On behalf of the club, he has organized marathons—participating in more than a dozen. Nowadays, he usually participates in 10k's and hill climbs.

Always one to foster community involvement, Al has been a pervading presence in the island's many civic and community organizations. Among others, Al served as charter president of the Guam Society of Certified Public Accountants, member and charter vice-president of the Guam Chapter of the Association of Governmental Accountants, chairman and director of the Guam Chamber of Commerce, charter chairman of the Guam Busi-

ness Hall of Fame and president of the Rotary Club of Guam, the Air Force Association and the Navy League of Guam. He is also president emeritus of the St. John's School Board of Trustees and founder of Junior Achievement of Guam. For his achievements he merited mention in the 1988 Who's Who in America and in the 1984/1985 Who's Who in the West.

The distinguished professional career and expansive community involvement of Allen A. Pickens has endeared him to the people of Guam. I congratulate him for his outstanding achievements and commend him for all the good work he has done for the local community. I wish him and his family the best for his retirement. On behalf of the people of Guam, a heartfelt "Si Yu'os Ma'ase" to a distinguished business and community leader.

TRIBUTE TO FELIX "TITO" TRINIDAD

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Felix "Tito" Trinidad, an outstanding Puerto Rican athlete, and a very successful boxer. On Saturday, September 18, 1999, in the dramatic end to the welterweight showdown nicknamed the "Fight of the Millennium," Trinidad scored with his punishing right hand and won by a majority decision, taking the WBC title from a very talented and worthy opponent, Mr. Oscar De La Hoya. The result was a joyful outpouring in Puerto Rico and in my Bronx Congressional district.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday government workers in Puerto Rico were given the day off to welcome Trinidad, and entire families turned out, with many children kept from school to celebrate. Pounding his heart with this fist, Trinidad stood atop a white truck wearing a floppy hat that read in English "Peace for Vieques."

The success added the WBC welterweight title to the IBF crown Trinidad already holds. Trinidad has now won 36 consecutive professional fights. He has held a world title since 1993, making him the longest-serving currently active world boxing champion.

Through his dedication, discipline, and success in boxing, Mr. Trinidad has served as a role model for millions of youngsters in the United States and Puerto Rico who dream of succeeding, like him, in the world of sports.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Felix "Tito" Trinidad for his contributions and dedication to boxing, as well as for serving as a role model for the youth of Puerto Rico and America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, due to unforeseen business in my district, I

was unable to be present for seven votes regarding H.R. 2684, VA-HUD-Independent Agencies Appropriations for FY 2000. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall vote 390: "nay"; rollcall vote 391: "yea"; rollcall vote 392: "nay"; rollcall vote 393: "nay"; rollcall vote 394: "nay"; rollcall vote 395: "yea"; rollcall vote 396: "nay".

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEXINGTON CEMETERY

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 150th anniversary of the Lexington Cemetery. "The Athens of the West", as Lexington was once known, serves as a resting place for such notable residents as Senator Henry Clay and General John Hunt Morgan. This cemetery has a national reputation as being one of the most beautiful in America and the people of the sixth district of Kentucky are very proud of it.

The Lexington Cemetery, which spans over 170 acres, serves as a memorial to the lives of folks who meant so much to so many people. These grounds tell a story of those who walked the hills of central Kentucky as far back as 1849. However, these grounds also tell us a story of those who came over the years to grieve the loss of a loved one, of the memories they left behind and many contributions made throughout their lives.

It represents the cord that binds families to their roots and connects them to past generations. For 150 years, the Lexington Cemetery has honored those lives whose contribution and value will always be remembered. These hallowed grounds offer a place to preserve the memories of those who have passed on but left behind many who will always mourn their loss.

So, as folks from throughout central Kentucky gather on Saturday to commemorate the beginning of the historical and sacred grounds of Lexington Cemetery, they will experience the beauty this special resting place has offered so many families for the past 150 years. It is an honor to stand before the United States House of Representatives to acknowledge this historic day for the Lexington Cemetery.

THE HILLSDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SAN MATEO CELEBRATES ITS FIRST FIFTY YEARS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in a few days, the Hillside United Methodist Church of San Mateo, California, will celebrate fifty years of ministry to the San Mateo community. I would